



United States Department of Agriculture



## Natural Resources Conservation Service CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM (Code 325)

### Fact Sheet for Producers

- High tunnels are used when sun or wind intensity may damage crops, or when an extension of the growing season is needed due to climatic conditions.
- Crops in high tunnels must be grown in the natural soil profile (i.e., **you cannot grow crops** on tables/benches, in portable pots, hydroponically, etc.).
- You may use raised beds as long as the bottom of raised bed is completely open to the natural soil profile and raised beds are no higher than 12 inches in depth.
- You cannot use your high tunnel to provide shelter or housing for any livestock or store supplies or equipment.
- Your high tunnel must be planned, designed, and constructed from a manufactured kit in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
- High tunnel kits must meet the following criteria:
  - Have a frame constructed of metal, wood, or durable (greenhouse grade) plastic.
  - Have a frame is a minimum of 6-ft high at the peak.
  - If end walls are included, they need to be greenhouse grade plastic, wood, or other material.
  - Have a covering that has minimum of a 4-yr lifespan (translucent woven material or shade cloth alone, now allowed).
  - If the cover is polyethylene, it needs to be at least 6-mil greenhouse grade and UV resistant.
  - Be rated for 40 mph winds or be modifiable with manufacturer's verification to sustain 40 mph winds.



The following links are to some vendors who provide high tunnel kits; mentioning these sources does not constitute and endorsement by USDA, NRCS and does not exclude the use of other commercial sources of suitable high tunnel kits. Additionally, USDA, NRCS **is not guaranteeing** that all products provided by the vendors listed will meet the criteria outlined in this fact sheet. It is **your responsibility** to make sure the kit you are considering meets the requirements listed here before you purchase a kit.

<http://www.ledgewoodfarm.com/pricinginformation.html>

<http://www.zimmermanshightunnels.com/>

[https://www.farmtek.com/farm/supplies/cat1a;ft\\_high\\_tunnels\\_cold\\_frames.html](https://www.farmtek.com/farm/supplies/cat1a;ft_high_tunnels_cold_frames.html)

<https://www.rimolgreenhouses.com/greenhouse-series/high-tunnel>

[http://www.dripworks.com/product/Q\\_HT?gclid=C1bokMj4ms0CFdglgQodw74KLO](http://www.dripworks.com/product/Q_HT?gclid=C1bokMj4ms0CFdglgQodw74KLO)

[http://www.poly-tex.com/high-tunnels/?gclid=CK\\_lue\\_4ms0CFdcagQod\\_0EM9Q](http://www.poly-tex.com/high-tunnels/?gclid=CK_lue_4ms0CFdcagQod_0EM9Q)

[http://www.growerssolution.com/page/GS/CTGY/hobby?t=greenhouses\\_ppc&gclid=C12J4ZL5ms0CFYE9gQod1H4BDQ](http://www.growerssolution.com/page/GS/CTGY/hobby?t=greenhouses_ppc&gclid=C12J4ZL5ms0CFYE9gQod1H4BDQ)

<https://www.gothicarchgreenhouses.com/cold-frames-greenhouse.htm>